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1			DISTRICT COURT CT OF NEW YORK	
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4	GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUG	OMO,	: 22-MC-03044 (TAM) (LDH)	
5	Plaintiff,		:	
6 7	-against-		: United States Courthouse : Brooklyn, New York	
8			: :September 26, 2023 :12:00 p.m.	
9	OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL,	K SIAIE	: :	
10	Defendant.		:	
11			:	
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13	BEFORE T	HE HONORAB	E FOR STATUS CONFERENCE LE TARYN A. MERKL	
14			GISTRATE JUDGE	
15	APPEARANCES:			
16	For the Plaintiff:	GLAVIN, PL 156 Wes	LC t 56th Street	
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THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: This is civil cause for a
status conference, docket 22-MC-03044, Cuomo versus Office of
the New York State Attorney General.
Will the parties please state their appearances,
starting with the movant.
MS. TRZASKOMA: Good morning, Your Honor. Theresa
Trzaskoma from Sher Tremonte, LLP on behalf of Governor
Cuomo, and with me is my colleague Allegra Noonan and my
co-counsel.
MS. GLAVIN: Rita Glavin of Glavin, PLLC, with my
colleagues Leo Korman and Katrina Petrino.
THE COURT: Thank you. New case. New transcript,
theoretically.
MR. AMER: Good morning, Your Honor. Andrew Amer
with the Office of the Attorney General. And I'm here with
my colleague. I will let her introduce herself.
MS. LONGLEY: Good morning, Your Honor. Serena
Longley on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General.
THE COURT: All right. So we are here because, as
everyone knows, there were substantial litigation concerning
a motion to compel and a motion to quash on which I issued a
ruling back in July, July 21st of 2023.

Since that time Governor Cuomo has sought reconsideration, seeking to file papers in support of reconsideration of that opinion and there's several

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complicated issues that I think warrant discussion.

As the parties know, the order that I issued on the docket in connection with the opinion specifically requested that the Attorney General's Office consider disclosing information to the extent that the witnesses agreed to it. And the reason for that inclusion was quite clear to the Court. Whether it was clear to the parties, I don't know. But my goal is to move this case forward. It is not to spend another two months writing an opinion on sovereign immunity. That's not my goal.

I know you submitted recent authority that Judge Locke had ruled to quash a subpoena under similar circumstances. I think the question is very complicated in a case involving party actors who were in office at the time where the State uniquely is the holder of documents that may be relevant in connection with the investigation to that person's conduct, as well other information.

I know that Governor Cuomo has issued a similar subpoena to the executive -- I'm going to mess up the name -- the Governor's office, essentially, and if this type of case is to be permitted to proceed in federal court and if the federal courts are called upon, as they often are every ten years in this state, to address the State legislatures invariably to redistrict correctly and there are important federal interests at stake in those kinds of cases, an

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important federal interest at stake in a case like this, where an executive branch official and State employer are accused of misconduct that is very serious. There may be times, in the Court's view, where the State has to provide some of the documents in their possession.

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So I have a lot of questions about Judge Locke's I have a lot of questions about the Fifth Circuit's ruling. ruling on which he relied. I have questions -- you know, as we discussed at the prior conference and as I observed in the opinion, this is a complex and novel question of constitutional law, and I'm just not at all convinced that the same immunity that federal agencies enjoy and that tribal, you know, entities who assert sovereign immunity, tribal immunity is necessary going to attent in the state So my goal was to encourage the Office of the context. Attorney General to disclose what limited amounts of information witnesses agreed to so that the Governor and the other defendants could get the information they may need to defend this case without having to reconstruct everything, which they cannot do, because, as Ms. Glavin noted at the argument back when we held it and in her subsequent filings, memories fade, circumstance change, some of the information may be relevant. I'm not saying I have reached a decision on the sovereign immunity issue because I haven't. I would, frankly, want further briefing by both sides.

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I would want to test the limits of what any qualified state sovereign immunity privilege should look like, and I want both sides to have the opportunity to weigh in on that. It's complicated.

I also question, this is more for the Governor, how so many of these things are styled as motion for reconsideration, what I just did in the July opinion was denied your motion to compel. That's it. That's all I did. There's no quashing your subpoena in that opinion.

So I'm just very unclear as to how your new arguments really would merit reconsideration, which is a completely different question than whether or not you're entitled to get some stuff that the Attorney General's Office has, and I don't know that you want to spend a whole ton of time litigating the procedural niceties of versus getting the info you want. So I don't think we necessarily want to spend our time on that, but because of the way it's frame, what's currently before me is a motion for reconsideration, not a motion to get exactly what you want after a meet and confer or after witnesses have agreed to permit the Attorney General's Office to turn over specific information. Again, you're using a blunderbuss where you should be using a scalpel.

And I have concerns about how the reconsideration briefing has come in. I have concerns about whether or not

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it's even the appropriate vehicle. I question whether or not that's an avenue we want to go down, whether it is a total waste of time because reconsideration is a different standard than the motion to compel. So I'm not sure where to start.

Firstly, I'd like to hear from the Attorney

General's Office in response to your representation that the

Governor -- I'm sorry, the Attorney General's Office has

indicated to me that they have received no requests from the

Governor since I issued the order in July saying please

consider giving stuff, you know, that the witnesses have

agreed to give.

Is that still the case, Ms. Longley? Have you received any requests?

MS. LONGLEY: Yes, Your Honor, that's still the case; we have not received any requests.

THE COURT: Why is that, Ms. Trzaskoma?

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, to be clear, we did make the request repeatedly and we understood that if the Attorney General were going to accede to the Court's request. We did not understand we had to make a separate request for that.

THE COURT: My order was pretty clear, that I had asked them to consider disclosure of information as to which witnesses agreed. And if they didn't have those requests formulated in that fashion, saying you were going to rely on

7 Proceedings 1 your prior requests doesn't seem like a great strategy. 2 MS. TRZASKOMA: I mean, Your Honor did us a favor 3 today by asking each of these nonparty witnesses whether they 4 would consent to the disclosure. But to be clear, nobody had agreed to that except for Ms. Liss-Jackson, which is the 5 request that we had made. 6 7 So, you know, obviously -- and I think you could hear that we have not been in a position to obtain consent 8 9 from these -- from many nonparties who claim they shouldn't 10 have anything to do with this case at all. So I think --11 THE COURT: Scorched earth doesn't work in civil 12 discovery. 13 MS. TRZASKOMA: We have not been scorching the 14 earth. And to be fair -15 THE COURT: College records from somebody who was sexually assaulted in college is scorched earth in the 16 17 Court's view for a non-party. 18 MS. TRZASKOMA: In that respect, Your Honor, we 19 were not seeking records concerning sexual assault; we were 20 seeking records of a false claim of sexual misconduct. So we 21 were not seeking records of something that happened. We were 22 seeking records of something that didn't happen. 23 THE COURT: In your --24 MS. TRZASKOMA: I think the records will show that

and we will get those records in the Southern District

litigation. But to be clear, that is not what we are seeking.

And right now, we been trying to use a scalpel.

I'm not sure -- the motion for reconsideration was very targeted. It was directed to a very particular part of Your Honor's decision. We did not blunderbuss it. We did not seek reconsideration of every ruling in that decision.

Rather, we sought reconsideration with respect to two issues. First, whether the AG report is relevant. And as you heard from Mr. Licul earlier today, it is relevant. He intends to introduce that report at trial. And, so, the allegations in the Complaint --

THE COURT: The sentence from my ruling, which was very specific and precise, which remains true, is that the jury is not going to be tasked with making a determination about whether or not the Attorney General's investigation was thorough or complete. That is not a question before the jury. And to posit in the motion for reconsideration that either the Court was some way employing the wrong evidentiary standard because framing that issue in that manner is not the same thing as narrowing what you're seeking and trying to actually move the ball forward, Ms. Trzaskoma.

MS. TRZASKOMA: But with all respect, Your Honor, I understand the distinction that Your Honor is making, but it was that ruling that a jury is never going to consider that

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THE COURT: I did not say that. I never said in that opinion that there was no possibility that the Attorney General report was coming in.

What I said is that they would not be tasked with making a determination about whether or not the report was thorough and complete, which was your phrasing from your briefing as to the evidentiary relevance of the full scope of information that the Attorney General's office had sought.

So the issue here is total failure to narrow what you're trying do and establish relevancy as to specific categories of documents and that is the bulk of the discussion. So my question to you is not facetious and it's not meant to attack in any way. I'm genuinely sincere. Do you want to proceed on a motion for reconsideration that may or may not be denied? It will probably prolong things. Or do you actually want to try to seek documents that you want?

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, we definitely want to seek documents that we want. We've been trying to do so respectful of the Court's authority to decide the issues. You know, we could have -- so in seeking reconsideration, what we were asking was the scalpel, right. So, yes, we had a concern about that statement in the decision, but really we had a concern that the Court did not grant the motion to compel even in part.

THE COURT: The Court is under no obligation to rewrite your discovery requests.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Understood.

THE COURT: I gave you an opportunity to narrow, following the oral argument, at which I made it abundantly clear that your requests were far, far, far too broad, and what came back was facial modifications to the requests but still ultimately seeking almost everything they had according to their review of the records. There is no tying things back to Trooper 1.

They interviewed, as we observed previously, dozens and dozens of people beyond the complainants.

It's not reasonable or realistic to expect you're going to get all of the interview notes. It's not reasonable or realistic to expect you're going to get all of the deposition transcripts.

At this juncture, before I grant you any of that, I will need to reach a conclusion on the sovereign immunity issue, which will require further briefing. I will then need to receive a detailed -- if I were to rule on against the Attorney General on that issue, I would need to receive a detailed privilege log, assuming they don't take an -- some sort of appeal, which they may, deciding the immunity issue.

So my goal here is to try to work out a path forward for the parties to cooperate as opposed to coming to

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1	the Court for legal rulings because the sovereign immunity is
2	significant and the privilege issues are significant. So, if
3	you the delay built into the process to address both of
4	those things is not going to inure to your benefit.
5	MS. TRZASKOMA: May I point Your Honor to our
6	February 24, 2023 supplemental letter?
7	THE COURT: What was the ECF No. for that?
8	MS. TRZASKOMA: 28.
9	THE COURT: Okay.
10	MS. TRZASKOMA: And Your Honor after the
11	February 7th argument, Your Honor asked us to narrow and we
12	did so.
13	We requested memoranda of witness interviews by the
14	AG of the 11 complainants referred to, witnesses relating to
15	their allegations, the witness interview memoranda of
16	Trooper 1, Brittany Commisso, Lindsey McGrath, and Alyssa
17	McGrath that was for the Assembly, the documents that the 11
18	complainants provided to the Attorney General and records
19	produced by third-parties that relate to those allegations
20	and unredacted transcripts of the 41 witnesses. We narrowed
21	it and
22	THE COURT: The only thing you cut out was
23	communications with counsel and calendar entries.
24	As the Attorney General's Office points out in
25	their response, the entirety of the investigation was focused

on the 11 witnesses. So if you're seeking all documents about them, provided by them, either by them or third-parties, what else is left?

MS. TRZASKOMA: I actually don't know who they interviewed. I don't have a list of 179 witnesses. Perhaps that would be a starting point. But this is a little bit like taking a stab in the dark. If you're asking about what's relevant to -- I mean, we would very much like not to have to deal with 11 complainants. It would be so much easier if we were dealing with Trooper 1 because then we could say it's, you know, all of the witnesses who testified or gave information -- gave interviews who were, you know, PSU or New York State Police witnesses, but we can't because we have --

THE COURT: But a moment ago you argued that the issue that you were taking with the Court's ruling is my failure to narrow. I'm supposed to review those 73,000 pages and decide what you get? That's not going to happen and you know that. So to say that there is a reason to reconsider for failing to narrow a subpoena as to which we don't even have a document-by-document privilege log is impossible, impossible.

So, again, I question whether or not reconsideration is really the vehicle you seek or whether or not a different vehicle could be more appropriate given that

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1	I did not quash the subpoena, which I think is a
2	misapprehension in your papers because you did state in your
3	papers that I quashed the subpoena that was issued to the
4	AJC, not the OAG.
5	Ms. Longley, in response to the efforts to narrow,
6	do you have anything you would like to add?
7	It seems to me that the parties' positions with
8	regard to the universe of documents set forth in document 27,
9	which was the sealed version of 28 and 29, is that still your
10	view in terms of what exists in the AG's files?
11	MS. LONGLEY: I'm sorry, are you asking are they
12	still requesting the vast majority of materials?
13	THE COURT: Yes.
14	MS. LONGLEY: Yes. It's not a meaningful cutting
15	down of the material that is being called for. It still
16	implicates the same privilege concerns, the burden concerns,
17	definitely sovereign immunity concerns. It is not a
18	meaningful change.
19	THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Amer, it looks like
20	you have something to add.
21	MR. AMER: I just want to mention, in response to
22	Your Honor's order encouraging us to provide transcripts
23	where the witness has consented, I did want to give you a

broader perspective on that, because I think I heard Your

Honor refer to them as deposition transcripts, and I want to

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make sure the Court appreciates that these are not deposition transcripts. A number of --

THE COURT: If I did that, that's a slip of the tongue because I do a lot of civil discovery cases, but go ahead.

MR. AMER: A number of affirmative bureaus in our office conduct investigations as a precursor to some law enforcement activity, whether it's the commencement of an action or an assurance of discontinuance, whatever it may. We also are tasked with investigating deaths in law enforcement situations. And I've been -- I've had an opportunity to conduct a number of these investigative interviews, and we always start off with the same statement to the witness, which is you don't have a right to obtain the transcript; in fact, you don't have a right to have counsel present during the interview, although often we will agree to allow counsel to be present. But when we do, we instruct counsel that they may not take detailed notes. So there may be circumstances that occur after the interview that lead the office to provide a copy of the transcript to the witness. But as a general matter, these interviews are very, very different from depositions. And they are done at the outset with the understanding that the witness is not going to get a copy of the of the unredacted transcript. They don't do the errata sheet that one does when you're a deponent.

With that in mind, whether or not the witness consents to providing a transcript that they actually don't have is not a meaningful question.

THE COURT: How often do you publish them on your website?

MR. AMER: So we don't publish them unredacted. In this particular situation, we publish them in redacted form. I think most of the time -- well, I shouldn't speak broadly, but this was a unique situation where a determination was made that they would be published, but, again, in unredacted form.

The few counsel representations that I heard about whether their clients consent, in response to Your Honor's question, were certainly not unconditional consents.

THE COURT: Agreed.

MR. AMER: They were consents subject to the lawyers reviewing the transcripts, which proves my point, which is that they don't have them. And their concerns are privacy concerns for their clients, which is part of the reason for why we redacted them before putting them up on the website in the first place. And they don't have our concern of the privilege issues that we raised, law enforcement privilege issues that we raised that is another basis for --

THE COURT: Which you have largely waived by posting them on the website. I mean, that's the thing about

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the website determination. That's why I asked.

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Look, if you conduct investigations -- and when I was chief of civil rights, I used to collaborate with the office that conducts the wrongful death investigation at the hands of the police. Alvin Bragg was my counterpart in my office at the time. Look, if you do an interview in connection with those investigations and ultimately it becomes a criminal matter and there are things that come along with it, totally understand the law enforcement privilege applicability and the various privileges that you But the determination to publish these transcripts on the website may have consequences. And that's one of the things that is complicated about this whole situation. that's one of the reasons why I wanted to ask all of the complainants if they had a concern about releasing those unredacted transcripts because, as you know, that's something that Cuomo's people have been seeking from the beginning, and trying to find meaningful ways of trying to get the information that they may need while also limiting the burden on the Attorney General's Office as a nonparty are two of my goals.

MR. AMER: Just two comments on that, Your Honor.

I appreciate and I think we all recognize that Your Honor didn't rule on any of the privilege questions because the basis for your ruling was relevance and burden. Those issues

have not been ruled on in the Court's decision.

THE COURT: They can't be because I don't have the document-by-document privilege log and I haven't conducted a privilege review.

MR. AMER: I appreciate that. And the second point is simply that I think we are talking about two different things. I think what you just mentioned with publishing unredacted transcripts on the site is a waiver question and I don't think it's related to whether or not the witnesses who don't have the right to get the transcript in the first instance consent or not. It seems to me that those are two different issues.

THE COURT: Those are totally different issues.

MR. AMER: Yes.

THE COURT: But in the interest of respecting the survivors and complainants who came forward and in the interest of advancing the law enforcement purposes that undergird the law enforcement privilege in particular with regard to chilling future investigations, I think witness consent is important. Don't you agree?

MS. LONGLEY: Your Honor, can I just add to that?

I would agree in general, but some of the redacted information in those transcripts speaks to anonymous witnesses who are not the witnesses who are potentially considering giving consent, but they may speak about the

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identity of other witnesses who are not publicly known, and our office has a law enforcement interest in not publicly releasing the names of those individuals or identifying information about those individuals or personal and private information about those individuals, and that is what is contained there that triggers the privilege concerns that our office has that are separate and apart from whether or not an individual witness might consent to their private information for their identity.

MR. AMER: And we seem to be going down a road now where, as part of this inquiry, we now have to disclose all the unredacted transcripts to the witnesses who were interviewed and their counsel, which is something that, as I said, is not the ordinary practice for your office, you know, in all instances. That raises the waiver question. I appreciate it. But I just want to point that out.

And it seemed to me from what counsel -- the various counsels responses to Your Honor's question, the end product is that their interest seem very much align with what our interests were in redacting those transcripts in the first place. It's hard to see why we have to go through that exercise to the extent that counsel have indicated that they are concerned about disclosing private information. Well, that is what our redactions, at least in part, sought to protect.

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respond?

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THE COURT: Ms. Trzaskoma, would you like to

MS. TRZASKOMA: Yes, just briefly on the question this is a different exercise than posting transcripts on a website. There is a protective order in this case, you know, witness identities, I mean, that's information we absolutely should have. If someone who is being interviewed or who is on-the-record testimony is being taken identifies someone else who saw something, knew something, heard something, that's information that we should have in connection with our defense of our client in this case.

You know, on the question -- so I don't -- I know we've talked about a need to review and redact, but that need, I disagree that it exists here because there is a protective order, so any personal information, I just don't think that is appropriate.

On the question of procedure, I understand that Your Honor thinks that our motion for reconsideration is not the appropriate procedure, and I would ask whether it would be -- so two things, first, on the sovereign immunity, we have served, as Your Honor heard, subpoenas on the Cleary and Vladeck firms for interview memos and transcripts, which we think they have. They're not the State. There is no State sovereign immunity implicated. There may be other issues with these other privileges, but we can cut around the State

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1	sovereign immunity issue by litigating those subpoenas, if
2	necessary.
3	THE COURT: They are not going to give them to you.
4	MS. TRZASKOMA: I understand, but we didn't serve
5	them previously because we did not want to go around this
6	process. But if the issue is State sovereign immunity, that
7	is a way to kind of cut that particular issue out.
8	THE COURT: It's your position that the
9	investigators working for the entities appointed under State
10	law don't enjoy that immunity.
11	MS. TRZASKOMA: That is our position. It doesn't
12	protect the information. State sovereign immunity protects
13	the State entity from being compelled to act by this Court.
14	That's their theory. The Cleary firm doesn't enjoy that
15	immunity. So the information is not protected. It's not
16	that the information is immune.
17	THE COURT: But they have many arguments that the
18	information should not be disclosed too.
19	MS. TRZASKOMA: Understood. But if we can limit
20	to Your Honor's point, that State sovereign immunity is a
21	naughty question
22	THE COURT: Which I will reach if I need to. But I
23	am trying to look for some quasi efficient path forward and
24	we are not finding many.
25	MS. TRZASKOMA: Well, I will say that we would like

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an efficient path forward.

To be clear, you know, our goal right now is, as we said in our motion for reconsideration and as reflected in your subpoenas to the Cleary and Vladeck firms, our focus is on getting the interview memos and the unredacted transcripts. But frankly --

THE COURT: Of whom? Everybody?

That's what your request, after the argument, said.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Of the complainants and any New York State Police witness.

THE COURT: The document you were referring to earlier requested the memoranda witness interviews of the 11 complainants and witnesses relating to the allegations by the 11 complainants, in addition to the witness memoranda by Trooper 1, Brittany Commisso, Lindsey Boylan, Alyssa McGrath prepared by the AJC, records provided to the OAG by the complainants, and records produced by third-parties to the OAG that relate to the allegations of the 11 complainants. And based upon the Attorney General's representation, that that encompassed basically everything since their investigation was limited to those 11 complainants, that was the scope of the request as I understood it when drafting my opinion in July.

I don't really want to spend a lot of time revisiting what happened in the past. If you have a narrow

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request now, you need to meet and confer with the Attorney General's Office and see if you can try to resolve it, see if their witnesses agree. They're never going to give you the interview memos. They've made that super clear. That's going to have to come to me on some sort of privilege review and I may need to reach to the sovereign immunity question. The onus is on the Governor to figure out what narrower set of documents you want and figure out a way to establish proportionality and relevance and/or convince the Attorney General's and/or the witnesses who are implicated to give you the materials.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, we did make -- in our motion for reconsideration, we requested a narrowing of the subpoena.

THE COURT: That's not reconsideration. That's a new request, and that's my issue with your procedural vehicle.

MS. TRZASKOMA: I understand that, Your Honor. I'm just saying in terms of us trying to identify a narrow set of information -- you know, one problem, as I indicated, we do not know who the 179 witnesses were. So if we could have, as a starting point, a list of those witnesses, I am confident that we could narrow it significantly. But at a minimum, I think, you know, what we would ask, and if we need to serve a new subpoena so that that is the operative subpoena for --

Michele Lucchese, RPK, CRR Officia, Cour. Reporter that Your Honor will consider in this going-forward context, we can do that.

But we know that the Attorney General interviewed a number of current and former State Troopers. We'd like to focus on those and we'd like to focus on the complainants interview memos, as well as witnesses to the events that they have -- that the other complainants have alleged.

THE COURT: Ms. Longley, would you like to be heard in response to those comments regarding witness lists and focusing on the complainants and the troopers?

MS. LONGLEY: Sure. Yes, please. As far as a list of witnesses, that goes right to the heart of our privilege and law enforcement concerns.

A number of the witnesses are not publicly known and have expressed credible fears of retaliation, many of which have continued to bear out in the public realm. We would not be willing to provide a list of witnesses to movant.

As far as which troopers provided testimony, that's something that seems that movant could get from his co-defendant, the troopers, who are aware of which troopers were interviewed.

And we've never received such a narrow request such as please identify all of the troopers who were interviewed.

That's a different request. We haven't receive that kind of

a request. I think that would be available from a party to this case and not from us. That is a request that we could perhaps consider.

I do want to also address this idea of subpoenaing our attorneys as an end run around this Court's decision to deny their motion to compel. You know, they subpoenaed our lawyers, which I -- I believe they were just served yesterday and were not in a position here to fully respond to those. I think the firms will respond to those subpoenas in due course. But I do not think that subpoenaing them will get around the sovereign immunity issue and it certainly won't get around our privilege concerns on those materials and those documents.

And the subpoenas, not only do they seek information that was already the subject of Your Honor's decision denying the motion to compel, they also are seeking completely irrelevant, completely inappropriate materials related to the billing, which, you know, the movant has submitted some arguments to reopen the record on, which we have responded to in writing and happy to address those if that's helpful for the Court. I wanted to preview that issue as well.

THE COURT: Ms. Trzaskoma, do you want to respond?

MS. TRZASKOMA: I mean, look, I completely disagree that there is some law enforcement concern in telling us or

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1	any kind of concern in telling us who was interviewed: I
2	don't think that reveals any big secret. If we needed to do
3	it on an attorneys'-eyes-only basis, we can do it that way.
4	The State Police do not know who was interviewed. We are
5	kind of picking it up piecemeal.
6	THE COURT: How is that possible?
7	MS. TRZASKOMA: Some of them are former, so they
8	just don't know everyone who was interviewed.
9	MS. GLAVIN: On that point, Your Honor, we actually
10	have asked counsel for the State Police and there as we've
11	learned, some former State Police troopers were giving up
12	phone numbers, call this person, call that person. So we
13	don't know that the State Police even know that they were
14	interviewed, but we have repeatedly asked counsel for the
15	State Police as to who was interviewed. The problem is I
16	think there is an issue with them getting that information
17	because they were represented by their union. We have asked.
18	We have tried to go down that road.
19	THE COURT: Wait. So the union would know. I
20	don't understand the issue.
21	MS. TRZASKOMA: But the union is not providing us
22	I mean.
23	THE COURT: The union doesn't have a law
24	enforcement privilege or a sovereign immunity argument.
25	MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, point taken. We can

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try to -- we have -- believe me, we have been trying to cobble this together as best we can. It is not as obvious as

THE COURT: I don't think it's obvious at all. I don't think it's obvious at all. I think it's very complicated. But I also think protecting the integrity of important investigations conducted by the Attorney General and AJC into important issues of executive branch official misconduct are very important principles as well. The Court will give significant weight, if ever called to do so, to the balance of those interests if I were in need to make a qualified privilege analysis or a privilege review analysis. The idea that this is your fast path forward is not correct. There are many, many hurdles on this path, many of which are very, very difficult to overcome.

So my purpose, again, in issuing the ruling, as I did, which was very narrow, simply saying that you haven't established relevance and proportionality as to all 73,000 or so documents that appear to be encompassed by even the revised version of your requests was in an effort to get you guys to meaningfully meet and confer and see if there is anything whatsoever that can be produced without a need to be further very contentious litigation on these topics. It's not going away.

And I agree with Ms. Longley, trying to subpoena

the law firms, they are just going to come right back here with their motion to quash and we are going to be back at square one.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, those subpoenas were not an end run around the privilege issues. That was an effort to really cut through the sovereign immunity issue, which we can have a disagreement about whether that cuts it out or not. Let me give --

THE COURT: Do you want to brief it? You're short on time and all of these steps are complicated legally.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Let me give you an example of one way.

THE COURT: I'm not being facetious. Do you want to brief it?

MS. TRZASKOMA: I would like to find a way to cut through this. As Your Honor can see from the binders in front of me, we have briefed a lot. I would really rather not, but I'm willing to do it because it's very important that we get interview memos. For example, Diane Perrotta, a former member of the PSU, a trooper, a former trooper whose job it was to protect Governor Cuomo, we took her deposition and she was not truthful, and she, I believe -- and it's a very interesting thing, because Ms. Perrotta was interviewed by the Attorney General's Office. She was not put under oath. There is no transcript of her statements, and she's

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not referenced in the Attorney General's report as someone 1 2 who corroborates Trooper 1's story. But in her deposition 3 she said she's best friends with Trooper 1 and she said she 4 was a witness to everything Trooper 1 alleged, everything. Ι find it very difficult to believe that that is true given 5 that that's inconsistent with Trooper 1's own complaint, 6 7 Trooper 1's own disclosures. And I'm very -- I believe that 8 Ms. Perrotta was not truthful with the Attorney General, and 9 I think her prior statements would expose her as an 10 untruthful person.

THE COURT: And -- again, back to the question I asked Mr. Licul, who is still here from this morning, why do we care about Ms. Perrotta? Is Mr. Licul calling her?

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MS. TRZASKOMA: She's listed as a witness in his disclosures and she -- and Ms. -- and Trooper 1 identifies her as a witness to certain of her allegations.

THE COURT: So you have good cross-examination fodder, it sounds like.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, we have -- believe me, I think we can, but I believe that there are other issues that would be helpful in terms of examining Trooper 1.

THE COURT: But you don't get everything that's helpful in the context of civil discovery. There is a relevance and proportionality limit. This is not a criminal case.

You guys are litigating this as if you're seeking to get all of the *Brady* out of the State. We talked about this last time. It's not how this works in a civil context, particularly when dealing with third-party discovery. There is a proportionality limit that has to kick in at some point.

Seven rabbit holes down the road in terms of so-and-so and so-and-so's credibility is starting to getting really far afield.

MS. TRZASKOMA: I don't think it's far afield to ask for prior statements from a witness who Trooper 1 has identified as one of her witnesses. So call me crazy, but that is actually highly relevant information that we are --

THE COURT: The interview memos are particularly problematic, though, as they may well have the law enforcement privilege.

Did they publish any of the interview memos?

MS. TRZASKOMA: The interview memos have been provided to us and we provided some of them to Your Honor as examples --

THE COURT: In the Albany case, I recall. But are the interview memos otherwise publically available?

MS. TRZASKOMA: They are not otherwise publically available. But, Your Honor, if you look at the interview memos, there is no special law enforcement information there.

THE COURT: We've gone over this. We've gone over

this.

MS. TRZASKOMA: I don't want to rethread ground because I agree. I would like to find a way to cut through this. I'm willing to meet and confer with the Attorney General's Office.

THE COURT: They are never going to give you the interview memos.

Mr. Amer is raising his finger.

MR. AMER: In the interest of trying to simplify the proceedings, we are now looking at two new subpoenas on two law firms. We're going to have to brief cross motions to compel and quash. And I hear them say that the only reason they served those subpoenas was because by doing so they think they avoid the sovereign immunity defense. We think it is absolutely clear they don't accomplish that by serving law firms that acted as our agent in connection with the investigation. We think it's absolutely clear that the law firms, as our agent, can raise the same sovereign immunity defense that the office raised in connection with the subpoenas served on our office.

If that's the only issue for why those subpoenas are outstanding, maybe it makes sense for the Court to determine if those law enforcements enjoy the same sovereign immunity defense without deciding the merits of that defense, and then maybe they withdraw the subpoenas and we can avoid

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1	having to file a whole new round of motion practice, and, by
2	the way, you know, involve law firms that otherwise aren't
3	going to be involved in this case. It just seems like we're
4	going to waste a lot of time because we think it's absolutely
5	clear that the defense is one that they can raise.
6	THE COURT: In the legislative privilege context,
7	you know, the case law is a little more developed, that
8	persons acting on behalf of legislative entities enjoy all of
9	the same legislative privileges. Why wouldn't that be true
10	of somebody working at the behest of State pursuant to an
11	authority delegated to them by State law?
12	MS. TRZASKOMA: I think because what underlies 11th
13	Amendment, you know
14	THE COURT: I'm not relying on 11th Amendment.
15	MS. TRZASKOMA: No, no. I'm sorry. What underlies
16	State sovereign immunity for these purposes is the order from
17	the federal court compelling action by the State agency.
18	THE COURT: But it is an agent of the agency.
19	MS. TRZASKOMA: I don't think
20	THE COURT: It's just traditional agency law.
21	MS. TRZASKOMA: it is currently an agent and it
22	still possesses those documents. It is no longer an agent.
23	Cleary is no longer
24	THE COURT: And that somehow waives the protections
25	the State might enjoy?

1 MS. TRZASKOMA: I'm happy to brief it, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Really, though? That's my question.

This is the way you want to be spending your time.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor --

THE COURT: There are also significant layers of law enforcement privilege issues, even if you were to succeed.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Your Honor, what is extremely frustrating is that the Attorney General told the public that she was going to turn over -- she was going to make public all of this information, and what she did is disclose -- cherry pick both which witnesses gave testimony and -- I mean, it is a very serious manipulation of the public record, because what happened is witnesses were called in for interviews, then they were put on the record. Oftentimes, their on-the-record testimony is not the same, is either not the same or is a subset of what their interviews were. So their interviews had all sorts of information.

I'll give you an example. Vincent Straface, who was the head of the PSU, was interviewed by the Attorney General's Office. According to him he was not asked a single question about Trooper 1. Instead, he was asked about general environment around the Governor. And one thing Mr. Straface told AG investigators is that he had a very hard time crediting Lindsey Boylan's statements and allegations.

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And why is that? Because shortly after she left the chamber, or the ESD, Ms. Boylan sent Mr. Straface a personal message. And in that personal message, Ms. Boylan told Mr. Straface that the Governor had inspired her and been such an important person in her life, and she missed him and please con -- please tell everyone I miss him. That's what Mr. Straface told the AG investigators in his interview.

Then, when he was put on the record, that -- they did not ask him about that. They didn't ask him a single question about Ms. Boylan. Instead, they asked him about Trooper 1. So there are two completely -- nor did the Attorney General -- you know, he provided that text to the Attorney General, but that doesn't appear in the report. That doesn't appear in his transcript. That wasn't an exhibit that was publicly disclosed. It's -- I'm not just talking about -- we're not just talking about a typical investigative situation where witnesses are interviewed and then they're locked into their testimony on the record. These two things often are very different. So it's not just like a luxury to get the interview memos. It's really important information.

On the question of the 73,000 documents or not, the 73,000 documents are the documents that they collected during the investigation. Again, I don't know what they have. I have a feeling a lot of them came from the executive chamber

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or the State Police or some other agency. But we don't exactly know what those are. But those are different than the interview memos.

And one question I have and that's raised in the recent letter about the billing that Cleary did is whether the Attorney General's Office, through Cleary, already reviewed and redacted the interview memos anticipation of having to turn them over, because what Ms. Longley -- what the AG's submissions so far indicate is they haven't reviewed and redacted the 73,000 pages. But that's separate and apart from the interview memos. So if the AG's office has paid -- if the taxpayers of the State of New York have paid Cleary millions of dollars to review and redact additional interview memos and those are not being turned over, I would like to know that.

THE COURT: I'm sure you would, Ms. Longley.

MS. LONGLEY: Your Honor, a few things. We are here on a motion to reconsider and these are the exact same arguments that were made on a motion to compel, which is that it would be really helpful and convenient and they might find impeachment or exculpatory information if they had interview memos or unredacted transcripts as they took depositions. This is not a new argument. It's the same argument they've made. They're just filling it with now that they have actually taken some depositions and said, oh, look what we

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said was going to happen has happened, so now we really want those interview memos. It's improper on a motion for reconsideration and it should be denied.

As far as the questions about the fees and the payments, we have -- we think they are completely irrelevant. We have been clear with the Court that the burden would be the same as presented in opposition to their motion to compel and in support of our motion to quash. We don't think we should have to explain what Cleary has done. We don't want to waive attorney-client privilege in any way. We can say that since this litigation has begun they have not been redacting documents in preparation of producing documents with the exception of the few documents we voluntarily produced that referenced Trooper 1 by name.

And as far as the -- I don't know if Your Honor wants me to respond to the comment about the interview memos and whether those have been redacted previously.

THE COURT: Look, the way this is headed, I may well need to review a subset of interview memos to evaluate the assertion of the law enforcement privilege.

What is the current status of these interview memos?

MS. LONGLEY: One quick note, which is that it's our position if the Court were to go in that direction, the Court would first have to resolve sovereign immunity.

Proceedings 36 1 THE COURT: I'm very aware. 2 MS. LONGLEY: In the event the Court resolved 3 sovereign immunity and it's not in our favor and appeals are 4 exhausted, at that point we would look at the interview 5 What I can say is they have not been redacted for potential production or review under the civil standards of 6 7 discovery. They were redacted under the criminal standards 8 for production to fellow law enforcement. There is a 9 difference of privileges. There is a different standard even 10 for attorney work product on the civil and criminal side. 11 would be time intensive and burdensome to review those for 12 redaction. 13 THE COURT: How many pages are the interview memos 14 of the complainants? Do you know? 15 MS. LONGLEY: I can't answer that off the top of 16 the my head. What I can say is there are over 150 of them 17 and that -- you know, probably closer to 200 of them, and 18 that they probably range in pages, I'm guessing two pages to 19 ten pages each. Maybe some are longer, but I don't have a 20 page count on that. 21 THE COURT: Okay. The number you mentioned 150 to 22 200, that's the total number of witnesses, right? 23 MS. LONGLEY: Correct.

And what I would like to add is while they may not be voluminous in pages, and I believe they are single spaced,

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but they do contain some very, very sensitive information about other nonparties, about individuals who are not publicly known and that have nothing do with the Trooper 1 case and are really, really far afield from the Trooper 1 case. And the vast majority of the witnesses don't know Trooper 1, don't know her identity, didn't know her at the time, have never talked about her. They were not asked about her. It's really -- we are talking about highly sensitive, privileged information that goes to the heart of our offices ability to conduct these kinds of investigations in the future and that have no relevance to the Trooper 1 case.

MR. AMER: I did want to quickly circle back to the Cleary and Vladeck subpoenas. We only have conducted research, you know, for a day and we've already found a case by Judge McMahon. It is called Catskill Development versus Park Place. It is 206 Federal Rule decision 78, 2002 decision, involving a firm representing tribal, a tribe, where she held that the law firms subpoenaed enjoyed tribal sovereign immunity. We just think it's crystal clear that the subpoenas on the firms did not eliminate the sovereign immunity defense and it would be, I think, in everybody's interest if we could get those subpoenas withdrawn and not have to have that separate battle, which it is going to involve, as I said, at least two more parties, both law firms and a whole new round of motions.

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THE COURT: Right. Look, this is a really intractable situation, as I see it. Ms. Trzaskoma and Governor Cuomo's team, since the beginning of the motion practice have repeatedly asserted that they want the interview memos and I get that. I understand the reason that you want the interview memos. They have been -- it has been argued at length both at the prior argument and more today that the Attorney General's Office believes that they are not required to respond to those requests due to the assertion of common law sovereign immunity. Whether or not that is the case remains to be seen.

At least one of our judges in our court just recently squashed a subpoena on those grounds. Whether I would follow that ruling remains to be seen.

Layered on that, you have the other private assertions, which are complicated. And then, Ms. Longley also made the -- slipped it in there, but I definitely picked up on it, the possibility of the Attorney General's Office appealing if I were to rule against them on the sovereign immunity question and reach the underlying substantive issues.

We are talking about a multi-month process here, if not a year for the case to go up and down to the Court of Appeals. And that was apparent to me when I issued my ruling in July. These are the steps and the road that what would

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So the question of whether or not we go down the road is something that really is in Governor Cuomo's court. You have repeatedly insisted that this is what you want, these are the documents you're seeking, and to the extent of now subpoenaing their lawyers for them.

I question whether you have any contrary authority to Ms. Amer's case. Do you have any?

MS. TRZASKOMA: I would have to look at that case to see it. But to be clear, we did not subpoena the firms as like a -- to set the stage for a different dispute.

As I said, it was a way to try to eliminate at least one aspect of the disputes. And I'm happy to meet and confer with counsel about that.

But, you know, when we were here in February, the AG's office said we are immune from the subpoena, but there are other ways you can get the information. You can go FOIL, serve a FOIL request. AND I just want to make clear some of the things we have done. We did serve a FOIL request, and the response THAT we got back was I can't do it before March '24, I'm sorry, March 2024.

There is one FOIL officer who's all alone in that office who is dealing apparently with multiple FOIL requests

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every day, and she's just not going to be able to get to it, and it's not clear what we'd get.

THE COURT: You won't get most of it anyway if they are asserting the law enforcement privilege.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Maybe there is an Article 78 proceeding that we will commence that will try to tackle that because I think their assertion of the privileges -- well, you know what we think about them. But in any event, I don't think there is -- in any event, that may be an avenue that we are pursuing.

I mean, but another way that we tried to get at some of this information is we served a subpoena on Trooper 1's counsel who represented Trooper 1 during her interview with the AG's office asking for her notes of the interview and she took no notes. So the AG interview memo is the only record of Trooper 1's prior statement.

THE COURT: You have the transcript. But, again, so two things: One, we know from Ms. Perrotta that all of the troopers, including Trooper 1, were talking among each other about the investigation while they were being interviewed by the AG's office. That unit in particular and maybe the entire New York State Police is a hotbed of gossip and rumor, you know. You know, we haven't taken all that many depositions of all those troopers. But I will tell you that each one of them has told us there's a lot of office

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1	rumor and they're all talking to each other. I do have			
2	questions about whether her on-the-record testimony is			
3	consistent with what she told them in her interview.			
4	I'm particularly interested in whether she suddenly			
5	remembered more things that she went on the record with than			
6	she had told AG's investigators at the outset. But that's			
7	just an example. We can't get that information because her			
8	lawyer didn't take notes.			
9	THE COURT: She's not represented by the same			
10	attorney as she was before?			
11	MS. TRZASKOMA: No, she was represented by the			
12	union lawyer in that.			
13	THE COURT: Has that attorney agreed to speak with			
14	you?			
15	MS. TRZASKOMA: The attorney doesn't really			
16	remember. She didn't take notes. She thought that the			
17	interview memo that the on-the-record testimony was			
18	similar, but more, more than the on-the-record testimony. So			
19	there was more			
20	THE COURT: I understand what the word "more"			
21	means.			
22	MS. TRZASKOMA: So we have been trying to do this.			
23	And my concern about I hear Your Honor, these			
24	are very difficult questions.			
25	THE COURT: No, you're not going to get the			

information in the amount of time you need it. That is my concern and you don't seem to be acknowledging that this is real.

The FOIL people are telling you March 2024. Even if we were to rule on sovereign immunity against the AG and then they appeal it, that's going to take however long that takes. So you need to figure out a path forward that actually is viable.

MS. TRZASKOMA: But, Your Honor, basically what you're telling us is we cannot get the information from the Attorney General, because if there were a normal situation where we could go meet and confer and they might be amenable to giving us some interview memos of Trooper 1 and the complainants and maybe a couple of other particular witnesses, I would be all in for that. But what I am hearing from them and what we have heard from them is full stop nothing. We are not giving you anything, even with witnesses --

THE COURT: I haven't heard that, Ms. Trzaskoma. I've been listening too.

Earlier today Ms. Longley said we've never heard this narrow request before, we are willing to consider that. You can get the transcript. I'm sure it's there. And Mr. Amer said similar comments in our prior oral argument. You have not made any efforts to narrow what you have been asking

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for despite my recommendation to do so at the prior oral argument and despite my explicit order saying please talk to them and figure out if there are certain documents that they are willing to give to you that the witnesses might agree to. I fully get that the Attorney General's Office has various concerns about disclosing that information, but you have done virtually nothing, in my point of view, to meaningfully meet and confer and narrow these issues with the Attorney General.

I recall at the end of our oral argument telling Mr. Amer I'm not ordering you to meet and confer because I haven't ruled on the sovereign immunity question. But the Attorney General's Office, like any state agency, I would trust, is likewise interested in reducing their litigation burden and trying to streamline this as much as they possibly can.

If there is any path forward, I suspect they will try to work with you. Because this is incredibly burdensome. You're now subpoening their law firm -- you're making allegations regarding the payments and accusing them -- almost akin to misconduct on the basis of seeing some oral responses about billing records. That briefing was totally inappropriate. I'm not getting the impression that the Attorney General's Office has entirely slammed the door.

Is that correct, Ms. Longley? Have you entirely slammed the door?

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MS. LONGLEY: Your Honor, we started off this process by offering documents that we thought reasonably could be potentially relevant and those documents were documents that we collected this referenced Trooper 1 by name. That was our initial response to the subpoena. We did try to work it out.

And I know, Your Honor, from hearing you before, you're not interested in rehashing all of the meet and confers that we had. But it was clear that the movant was not willing to narrow the subpoena, and then we have been going through this process. We have been litigating it. They have not attempted, you know, to narrow anything or meet and confer with us since.

But I will say, we'll always take something under consideration. If there is a reasonable request made that doesn't call for privilege information and does not implicate sensitive information of cooperating witnesses who are afraid of retaliation, you know, I think that -- and is it relevant. I think that really is important for us. Is it relevant to the Trooper 1 case? Are witnesses -- are potential future witnesses for our potential future investigations, everyone in the world is going to see that we are just willy-nilly giving out people's information even if it is not tethered at all to actual claims in a litigation. I think if there's a reasonable request, we will consider.

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In the background, there is always the sovereign immunity concern and our belief that we actually, you know, can't be forced to provide the documents. But that said, if there are documents that would be available, for example, under FOIL, which is something we raised with counsel from the beginning. Why don't we give you what you could potentially get under FOIL? They were not interested in that. They wanted all of our communications with counsel. They wanted every note the attorneys ever took throughout the investigation even if it had nothing to do with Trooper 1.

So, yes, we have not slammed the door. That said, you know, I think what they really want are interview memos. What I am hearing again today is they want interview memos so they can -- you know -- as impeachment evidence against the investigation because it's not really for the Trooper 1 case.

The Trooper 1 case, they have prior sworn testimony that's likely redacted online. They can use that to try to impeach the witnesses in the context of the Trooper 1 litigation. What they really want is to compare the interview notes from the investigation to the testimony of the investigation so they can say the investigators got it wrong, which is really not what the lawsuit is about. That's why they want that material. This is unprecedented how much material is available online.

THE COURT: It is, which also raises issues as to

whether or not your privileges still attach, and that's another layer of complexity here, and that is a layer of

3 complexity that I think bears on all of the analyses.

If the legislature has only a qualified legislative privilege, why is the executive branch's superior and what portions of the executive branch enjoy that privilege? All agencies, you know, chartered by New York State have to provide nothing in federal court strikes me as a stretch. I understand the Fifth Circuit's ruling. I've read the decision I've read Judge Locke's decision closely. Other courts thought this argument was so ridiculous, like the Eight Circuit, they didn't even bother to analyze it. This has never been the law, to reply to the subpoena.

This is a serious, very serious issue with huge implications all for all kinds of cases, the wrongful death cases that Mr. Amer referenced earlier, every ten years needing the redistricting processes to come to federal court. If cannot be, in the Court view, this is a complete privilege from participating in federal court litigation once New York State decided to join the union.

MS. LONGLEY: Your Honor --

THE COURT: The common law that Mr. Amer described that he was relying on in the prior argument is not the 11th amendment sovereign immunity but the federal common law, and common law evolves over time and joining the union and

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becoming an increasingly active participant in the governance of our State has ramifications for New York State agencies. I don't think we are looking at pre-ratification case law and pre-ratification governmental structures in deciding whether or not sovereign immunity would attach in all instances and in all circumstances, at all times. And in this specific case, where the Attorney General's Office has made an affirmative decision to publish tons of materials online and put a ton of information out there, I think that there are questions similar to the legislative privilege balancing analysis that would apply to the legislative branch.

So this is a really complicated inquiry and one that neither party has had an opportunity to fully brief. I have not asked to fully brief the question of whether there's a qualified privilege and what that would look like, and that's where this would need to go next, unless Governor Cuomo is willing to work on narrowing these requests in a meaningful way and recognizing the timing and complexities of the discovery process here.

Ms. Glavin is raising her hand literally.

MS. GLAVIN: I want to get this. I want to pose this question to the Attorney General's Office, okay.

With respect to the interview memos, okay, for the 11 complainants, would you be willing to produce the interview memos for those 11 complainants, plus interview

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1	memos of people who were witnesses, alleged witnesses to			
2	those allegations? Would you be willing to produce those to			
3	us?			
4	MR. AMER: So we are not going to respond like this			
5	in open court.			
6	MS. GLAVIN: But would you consider it?			
7	MR. AMER: Let me finish. Let me finish. If you			
8	want to make a narrowed request that withdraws the pending			
9	subpoenas against the law firms, confirms that if your			
10	request is, you know, going to withdraw your motion for			
11	reconsideration, you're not going to object, and we're going			
12	to resolve this, then make that request and we will consider			
13	it.			
14	I don't know the answer to it because, you know,			
15	you're making it on the spot here and nobody's had a chance			
16	to review it.			
17	MS. GLAVIN: I get it.			
18	MR. AMER: But don't make a request that's not with			
19	prejudice to the larger subpoena that you have issued because			
20	we are not going to do, you know, death by 1,000 cuts here.			
21	MS. GLAVIN: I get it.			
22	THE COURT: The challenge that we're facing, again,			
23	relates back to the first question of the day to Mr. Licul,			
24	who is still here, I'm smiling and looking at him; he is			
25	smiling back, which is really the scope of the plaintiff's			

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1	case here.			
2	I believe you were here, Ms. Longley, for the			
3	argument.			
4	MS. LONGLEY: Yes.			
5	THE COURT: I think I saw you in the back.			
6	It is extremely broad as presently drafted in the			
7	Complaint and as according to the Rule 26(a) disclosures.			
8	Whether or not that's going to stay plaintiff's case, I don't			
9	know.			
10	I'm urging plaintiff's counsel to really think hard			
11	about Rule 404(b), 403, how strong the similarities are			
12	between these various instances of misconduct to see if those			
13	other instances are likely to come in at trial. I would also			
14	urge the Governor Cuomo attorneys to really think hard about			
15	whether there is sort of any ways that they can work with			
16	plaintiff's counsel to narrow the scope of the allegations in			
17	the case.			
18	But the lay of the land in the Trooper 1 case,			
19	with regard to your point earlier, Ms. Longley, with			
20	reviewing relevance is it's a very broad set of allegations			
21	that are presently in the case.			
22	MR. AMER: But as Your Honor cogently pointed out			
23	both here and in your decision, it's not going to be for this			
24	jury to decide whether our investigation was thorough and			
25	proper. So to the extent the material they seek goes to that			

question, that's not going to be something that our office is going to consider as relevant.

THE COURT: Understood. But everybody knows that a prior interview where somebody provided significantly less or significantly more or slightly different information can be effectively utilized for cross-examination and/or understanding the evolution of that person's story. It's not exclusively for the purposes of attacking the investigation, to be perfectly fair to their position. It's not black and white like that. This is, as we've discussed now for almost an hour and a half, super complex set of issues.

I'm directing the parties to go back to the drawing board and meet and confer with regard to these recent developments as to the subpoena, to the law firms for the Attorney General's Office, and is it also the AJC?

MS. GLAVIN: No.

THE COURT: So please go back to the drawing board and discuss these subpoenas to the law firms. If there's authority in support of the notion that they don't enjoy sovereign immunity, maybe there's a good-faith basis to issue those subpoenas to address that issue. It certainly strikes me as questionable in light of basic agency law that somebody would suddenly lose that protection because they are still employed. I mean, I have a lot of issues, a lot of questions legally as to that position, Ms. Trzaskoma. And see if there

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is any narrowed set of information that the parties may be able to agree upon. I'm not optimistic. But this isn't working.

Litigating, as a matter of law, every single point of discovery in this case isn't going to work. I think that the binders we were joking about earlier prove that. This is why civil discovery is so, so challenging, right, because the Court doesn't know what information you have, what information you need, where the information might be, what steps you have taken to find it, what that person's position is. And in order for me to issue a ruling as a matter of law, I need concrete information as to all of those things. And that's very, very hard to establish.

MS. TRZASKOMA: You're not going to get any argument from me about the absolutely vexing nature of discovery in any civil case, but this case is like on steroids.

THE COURT: It's a unique case.

MS. TRZASKOMA: It's unique, and the number of nonparties that have relevant information who are not willing to cooperate is remarkable. That has been very frustrating.

If we cannot brief another motion, I don't think that's possible given what we heard this morning, but I take Your Honor's point. We will, you know, be in touch with the AG's office and meet and confer as you have directed.

Proceedings 52 1 THE COURT: Thank you. 2 And can I ask the parties for a joint status update 3 in two weeks as to the plan forward, the path forward with 4 regard to the current motions for reconsideration and other 5 motions? I think I said pretty strongly that this doesn't 6 7 strike me as a motion for reconsideration per se, although I 8 understand sometimes you can move for a motion for 9 reconsideration if there's new information, most of this is 10 new, what's included in subsequent papers. The idea that the 11 reconsideration is the correct vehicle I think is a 12 questionable one. But I would prefer, again, not to have to 13 litigate that issue. I would prefer for the parties to find 14 some path forward to actually get some information flowing as opposed to legal conclusions that don't actually advance the 15 16 discovery purposes at all. 17 Your Honor, would you consider staying MR. AMER: 18 the deadline for the two firms to respond to the subpoena 19 pending an attempt to work this out? 20 THE COURT: Yes. MS. GLAVIN: We're fine. We won't enforce while we 21 22 go through this. 23

MR. AMER: Thank you.

24

25

THE COURT: Yes. I will temporarily stay that deadline until we figure out a path forward because this isn't going to work as a practical matter.

All right. I look forward to hopefully hearing there is some sort of a path forward. If not, we will have to revisit the sovereign immunity issues. There may be a need for a very detailed privilege log. It's going to be a process and it's going to take a long time. I'm not saying that as any kind of threat or anything; it's just a fact. And, you know, it is something you guys need to think hard about in deciding what positions to be taking in regards to your conversations with them and where to press on your litigation strategies.

MS. TRZASKOMA: Understood. Thank you, Your Honor.

MS. GLAVIN: So we will get a status letter with OAG office within two weeks.

Can we, while plaintiff's counsel for Trooper 1 is here, address the discovery deadline? Because we think we need a little extra time to respond to some briefs, but we have the October 16th deadline. So given the press of that deadline, we'd like to propose something new at least for the time being or a placeholder while we try to work through these issues.

THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Licul, do you mind coming back up? Do you have any objection to some extension of the fact discovery deadline.

I don't really see that I have a choice given the

pending motions.

MR. LICUL: I think that's right. In principle, I have an objection, but practically, I'm not going to object, Your Honor, so long as we have a deadline that is not so far out. Like I said, we are prepared to finish our discovery. I know that doesn't mean much for the Cuomo folks.

Nonetheless, we just need his deposition, I think one more.

THE COURT: I will take a look at the dates.

How much time were you thinking of, Ms. Glavin?

MS. GLAVIN: Your Honor, what Ms. Trzaskoma and I were just thinking about is can the court adjourn the discovery deadline and then let us have an opportunity to confer with Trooper 1's counsel because I think some of this is going to have to do with what documents we get, whether this becomes narrowed and whether there is a way to do that, and I'd like to be able to do that informed because it would be great if we can narrow the scope of some of this.

I have some proposals for Trooper 1's counsel about narrowing perhaps some of the complainants that are currently in the Complaint.

THE COURT: Mr. Licul, similar to my question of the Attorney General's Office, are you willing to engage in a very meaningful meet and confer and file a joint letter in two weeks providing any clarification as to whether or not any of these issues have been narrowed or resolved and

proposing a revised jointly proposed discovery schedule?

MR. LICUL: I think we might need a little more than two weeks on our end. I know I have asked for less time.

The scope of what we're going to be discussing is pretty big. I'm sure Ms. Glavin has some pretty good requests from me. We can hash it out. Or, at least, Friday to hash it out.

MS. GLAVIN: Perhaps you can confer with some of the nonparties.

THE COURT: Perhaps. And perhaps you guys can decide it might make sense to take things out of order. I mean, I've been hearing since January that there may be an interest in striking allegations, moving to preclude. I'm not inviting that motion practice as part of discovery, but at the end of the -- as I noted during the main argument on the Trooper 1 case, I'm very concerned about how the discovery is proceeding vis-à-vis the victims. And if there are persons who are being dragged through this process and potentially re-traumatized for the possibility that they might have the opportunity to testify at trial, that is not a good use of the civil discovery process and, frankly, very problematic.

MR. LICUL: Your Honor, I would just say all of the lawyers obviously are very competent who represent each of

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the witnesses, but what I did not hear was attorneys who said we simply don't want to comply with these requests, we're not giving you anything. In fact, what I heard was a series of lawyers who came up here and said we gave them this information, we gave them that information.

THE COURT: And they also said my client doesn't know Trooper 1, never met Trooper 1, doesn't know who Trooper 1, and has no idea why she's involved with this lawsuit and she wants to be done with it.

MR. LICUL: Well, also, Your Honor, that is not the issue in the case. The issue in the case is Governor Cuomo's interactions with that --

THE COURT: I'm fully aware of your theory of relevance. It doesn't make it admissible in every instance. So I need you to look hard at the various allegations of each of these complainants and seriously consider tailoring your case, because at some point the Court may end up having to do it for you.

MR. LICUL: That's fine, Your Honor. We absolutely will do that and will consider that. But I do think that there is something amiss about a person, a woman not being able to prove a hostile work environment claim under Second Circuit precedent because her fellow victims are being targeted with many subpoenas and tortured that way.

THE COURT: That's not the issue. The issue is

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1	403, 404(b). There are a lot of other issues at play.		
2	MR. LICUL: Well, again, Your Honor, but I don't		
3	mean to get ahead of ourselves. We certainly will consider		
4	it. I		
5	THE COURT: I hear your theory of relevance. I		
6	truly do. I question how far it extends. Keep that in mind.		
7	MR. LICUL: Yes, Your Honor.		
8	THE COURT: Thank you all. Very informative, as		
9	usual.		
10	Hopefully, the parties can make some progress and		
11	the nonparties can make some progress in the next few weeks.		
12	Then, Mr. Licul, you said you need a little more		
13	time. When can the parties meet and confer, hopefully narrow		
14	and give me a status report update?		
15	MR. LICUL: Three weeks.		
16	THE COURT: Does that work for you, Ms. Glavin?		
17	MR. LICUL: At the end of three weeks.		
18	THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: October 17th is three weeks		
19	out.		
20	THE COURT: Will that work for you?		
21	MR. LICUL: Yes.		
22	THE COURT: Ms. Glavin?		
23	MS. GLAVIN: Yes, Your Honor.		
24	THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.		
25	Just to be formal about it, the two weeks out for		

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1	the OAG. And the Cuomo matter is, of course, October 10th.			
2	Thank you all. I look forward to receiving			
3	follow-ups. At a minimum, it may help clarify what I			
4	actually have to rule on, in which case I will rule on more			
5	things.			
6	MS. TRZASKOMA: Thank you, Your Honor.			
7	MS. GLAVIN: Thank you, Your Honor. Nice to see			
8	you.			
9	THE COURT: Nice to see you all too.			
10	(Matter adjourned.)			
11	* * * *			
12	I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.			
13	record of the proceedings in the above-entriced matter.			
14	/s/ Michele Lucchese September 29, 2023			
15	Michele Lucchese DATE			
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